

ORIGINAL SEGO LILY SCHOOL

Constructed : 1896

Address: 723 East Ninth North

Present owner: Haruo Miyagi family

From 1854 until 1915, when the Alpine school District Board was formed, Lehi had its own school district. Responding to the state legislature's 1896 mandate that all school children between the ages of eight and fourteen attend school at least twenty weeks per year, the Lehi School Board decided to build a new elementary school at 723 East Ninth North.

The *Sego Lily School*, named after Utah's state flower, was built by Lehi builder John Willes. Building design showed special attention to proper light. Ventilation transoms were built over each window and several ventilating flues were constructed in the main walls. The front door of the twenty-four-by-twenty-eight foot schoolhouse with its fourteen-foot-ceiling opened into an eight-by-twenty-four foot cloakroom.

The one-room Sego Lily was designed to accommodate fifty children. Blackboards extended on all sides of the room and it was supplied with "automatic desks." Cliff Austin, who died earlier this year, remembered starting school in the Sego Lily when he was five years old. On cold winter days the potbellied stove in the high-ceilinged room was inadequate for heating purposes. "Whoever was at one side of the room" Austin remembers, "they were sweating, and at the other side, they were cold."

Austin, like other Lehi students at the turn of the century, was "full of the devil," as he put it. The Lehi School District in 1900 printed "Rules for School Pupils" for keeping mischievous students under control and school buildings intact. Pupils were required in case of absence or tardiness to furnish an excuse from a parent or other person satisfactory to the teacher. Students were not allowed to leave the school playgrounds at recess or any other time during school, except by permission of the teacher.

Pupils were required to keep their books and utensils neat and in order. A pupil who “shall in any way injure or deface any school house or school furniture,” or “who shall use any profane or vulgar language, or make any obscene pictures, shall be liable to suspension or expulsion.”

All damages done to school property were to be repaired at “the expense of the parent or guardian of the pupil.” The use of tobacco by pupils was not allowed on school grounds, and “the reading of light, trashy literature is also forbidden.”

No pupil was to be accepted to a grade in the school “until he gives satisfactory evidence of his fitness for that grade,” nor “will anyone be permitted to leave off any study belonging to his grade except by special permission of the board.”

Seats were to be assigned each pupil which he or she was required to keep “neat and in order and make no change unless approved by the teacher.” Pupils were required to be neat and clean, “both in dress and in person.” When unfit to appear in school, “they may be sent home to be properly prepared.”

The final rule stated that “repeated violation of any of the rules or regulations of the school by any pupil, or continued disobedience to the teacher shall be considered cause for expulsion.”

In 1903, when Lehi was divided into four Mormon wards, the Sego Lily School was used for a time as the Fourth Ward meetinghouse. By 1913 the population of the surrounding area required a twenty-four-by-twenty-four-foot addition to the east side of the school. Genevieve Dransfield, who attended school in this building and later taught there, remembered that when the addition was built onto the school “the narrow steps and wooden banisters were replaced by wide cement steps. Two new grades were accommodated, making this a four-grade school of about 60 pupils. This was much better because the children were a little older when they had to go ‘downtown’ to school. There were no school buses then.”

The Sego Lily continued to be used as a school until 1929 when it was closed and all children transferred to the Primary and Grammar Schools. In 1933 the vacated building was sold to the highest bidder, James Clark for \$410. It was then converted into the Arnold Dransfield residence. At the present time the

building has been impressively restored by the Haruo Miyagi family, who reside there.